

**Proposed Navy Mitigation Project**  
**USS Abraham Lincoln**  
**2 February 2002 Oil Spill**

Presented to: Washington State Department of Ecology  
Resource Damage Assessment Committee

Presented by: Navy Region Northwest  
Navy On-Scene Coordinator

*June time frame for implementing  
projects*

# Project #1

## Rehab Creek Channel and Riparian Vegetation Restoration

### 1) Location of Project:

Proposed project will take place Naval Radio Station Jim Creek, northeast of Everett, and approximately 20 miles east of Arlington. Jim Creek is a sub-watershed of the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River, which supports salmonid populations of coho, pink, chinook and chum salmon, as well as steelhead. The work site is situated along Rehab Creek, from the Hatchery Building to the downstream end of the culvert under Hatchery Road (near Building 15), a length of 0.2 miles.

### 2) Brief Description of Project:

Reed canarygrass is very invasive weed and colonizes wetlands and disturbed areas of streams, and grows best in direct sunlight. This canarygrass has choked Rehab Creek, preventing spawning salmon from reaching their natural habitat. A site visit on 11/27/01 found coho salmon migration blocked at choke points where these grasses had obstructed the stream. In years past salmon were able to continue their migration further upstream, perhaps another quarter mile or more, significantly increasing their chances for successful spawning. Herbicide application for removal of reed is not a preferred method of control because of the salmon spawning grounds, and other natural animal and insect populations. The preferred method is to hand cut and shade-out the canarygrass.



Example of  
canarygrass  
removal, by Kitsap  
County, Navy, and  
Port Gamble  
Skallam Tribe

October 1999



Using hand tools and weed wackers, the crew from the USS Lincoln will physically cut and remove stems and leaves of the canarygrass from the banks of the creek and from around existing young shrubs, enabling natural growth and spread of the native shrubs. Grasses will be pulled out of the channel to allow free flow of the stream and to open channels for migration.

The crew from the USS Lincoln will plant fast-growing shrubs and trees that will shade the banks and streams.

- a) Plant willow (Pacific, Scouler, Sitka) along bank edges. Willow will be harvested from a nursery site on station along Jim Creek.
- b) Plant 200 black cottonwood outside of willows.
- c) For diversity, plant 100 slower-growing big leaf maples outside of cottonwoods.

**3) Describe briefly how this project will benefit resources potentially effected by oil spills:**

The project will remove existing canarygrass from natural stream banks and beds, allowing free flow of the salmon-spawning stream. Removal of the canarygrass will enhance growth of more desired vegetation, which will be transplanted into the area to provide shade for the spawning creek, as well as shading the stream to reduce further canarygrass invasion.

**4) Define the goals and measurable objectives of this project. How will success be measured?**

The goal is to restore the salmon migration stream and enhance the natural vegetation to prevent further invasion of the canarygrass. Success will be measured by future inspections to insure the stream continues to flow free and unobstructed by the grass, and by continued growth of transplanted vegetation.

**5) What is the estimated duration of this project?**

The project will take place in early June, and take approximately two days with a crew of 15 to 20 personnel.

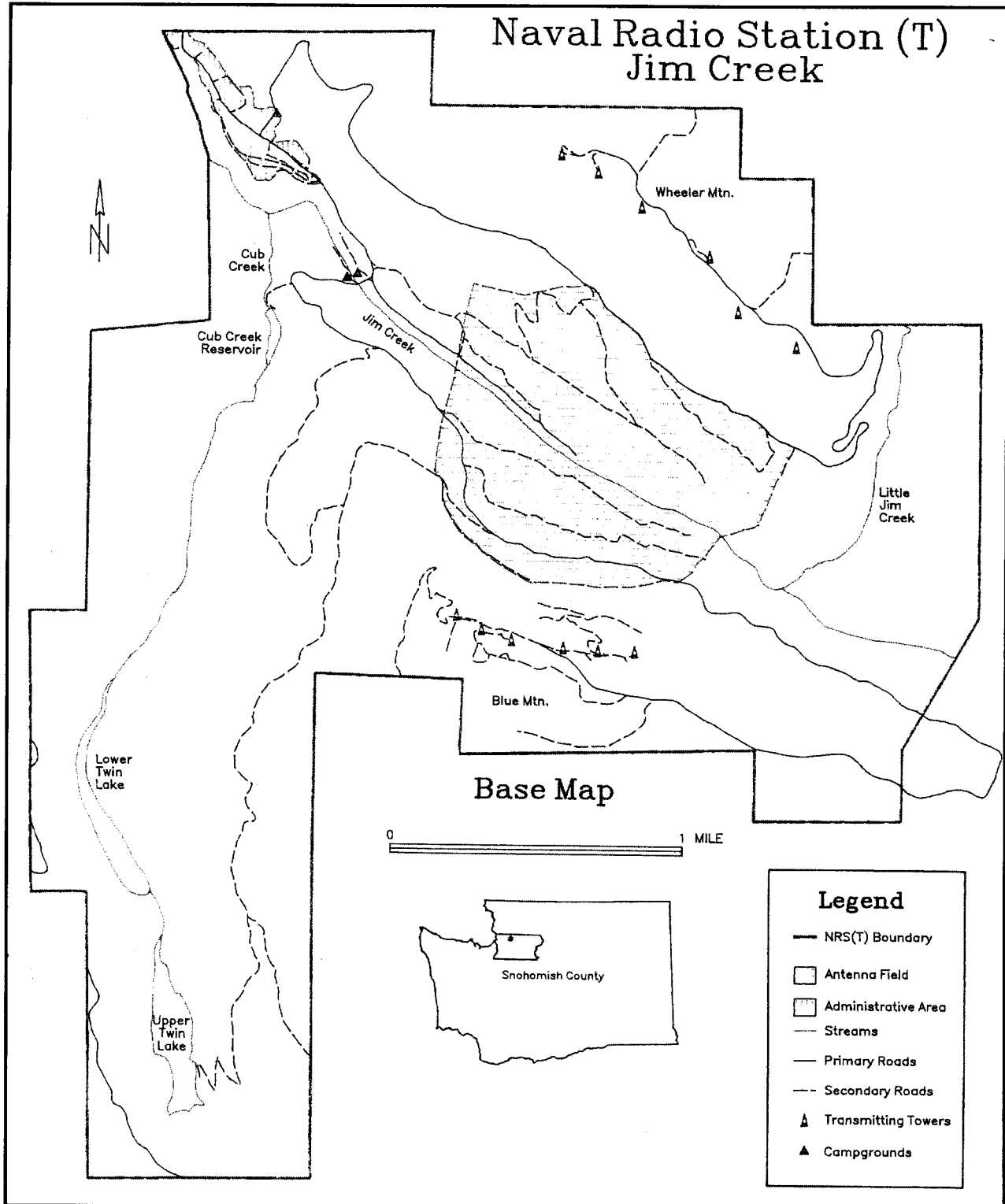
**6) What is the estimated cost of this project?**

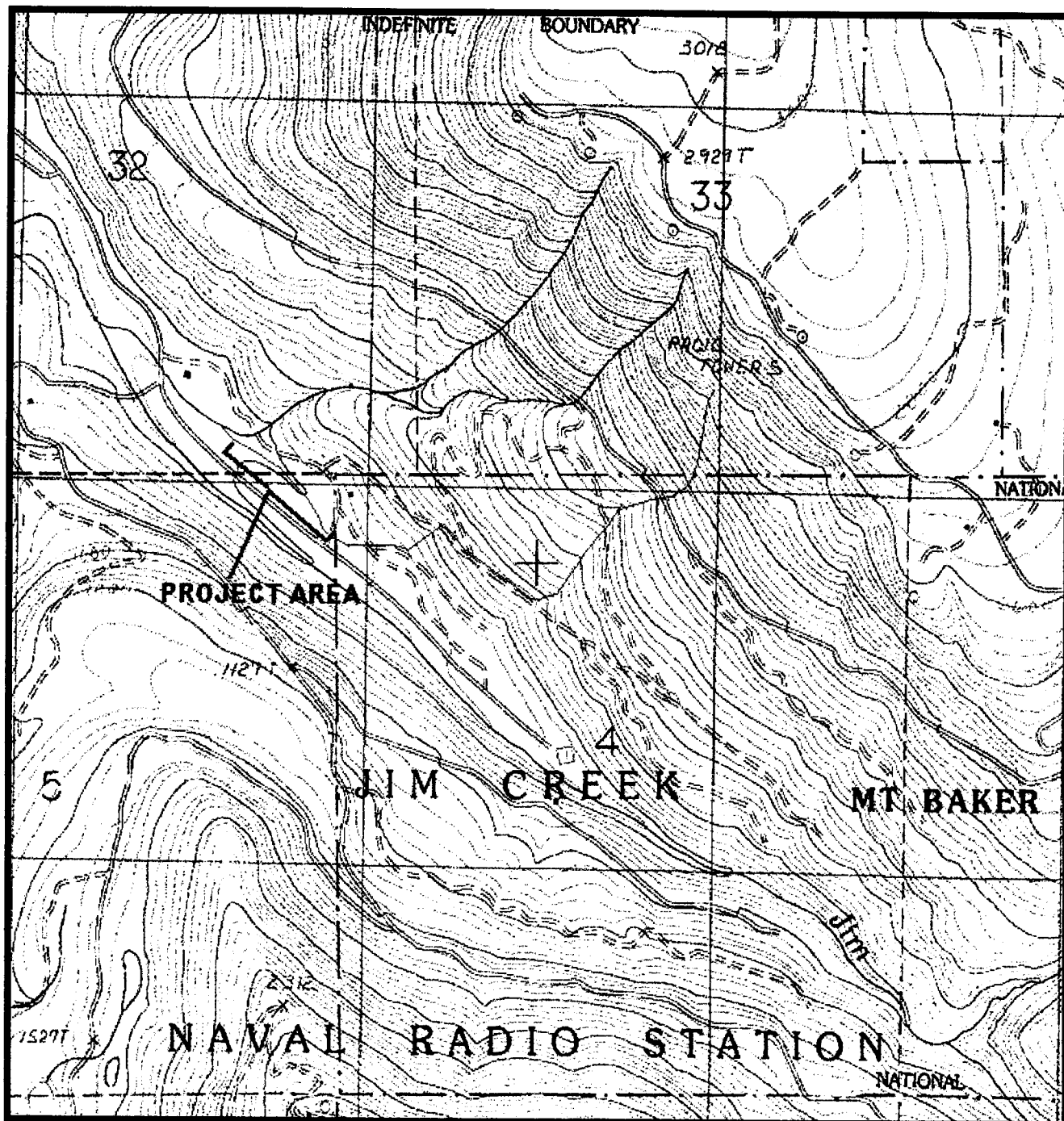
Costs include: Labor, transportation, logistics, administration and equipment. Walter Briggs of EFANW is purchasing \$1500 of trees for the planting. Exact costs have not been calculated.

**7) For projects involving habitat restoration/acquisition:**

- a) What is the approximate acreage of the area to be restored?  
.2 to .5 miles of creek bed and embankment
- b) What is the current ownership of the area to be restored?  
U.S. Navy
- c) Please attach a map showing the location where the restoration project will take place.  
See, attached.

# Naval Radio Station (T) Jim Creek

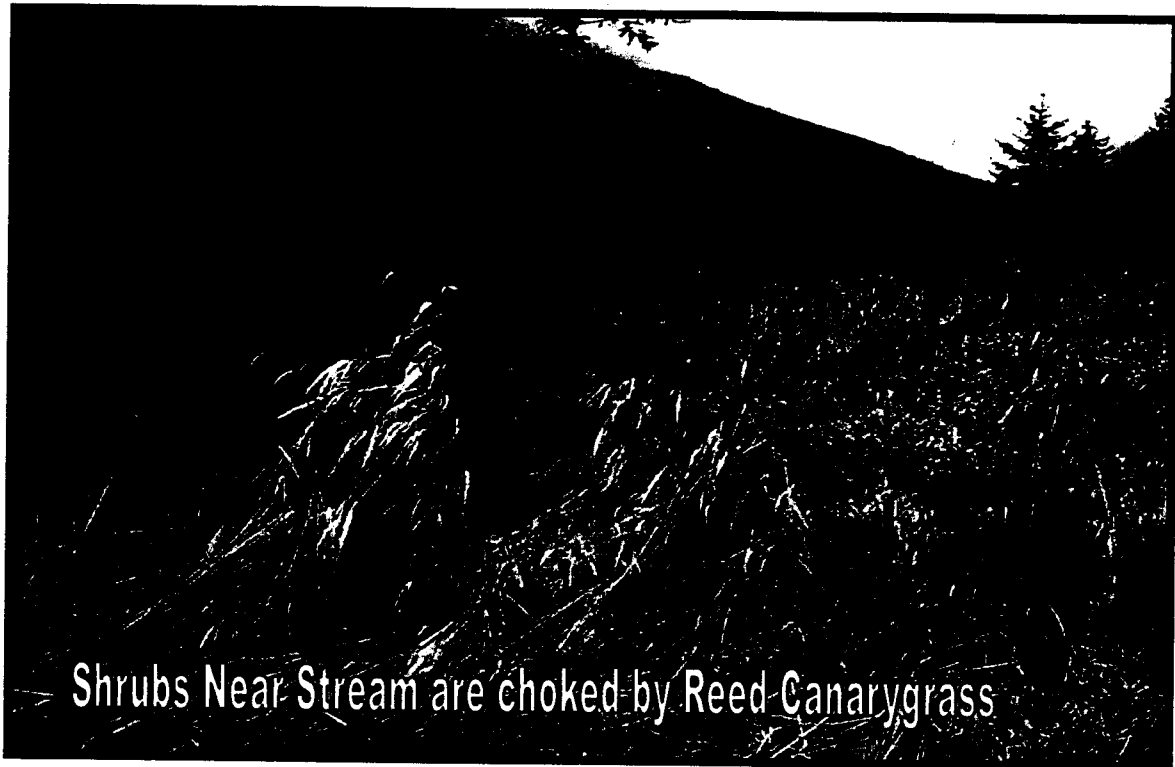




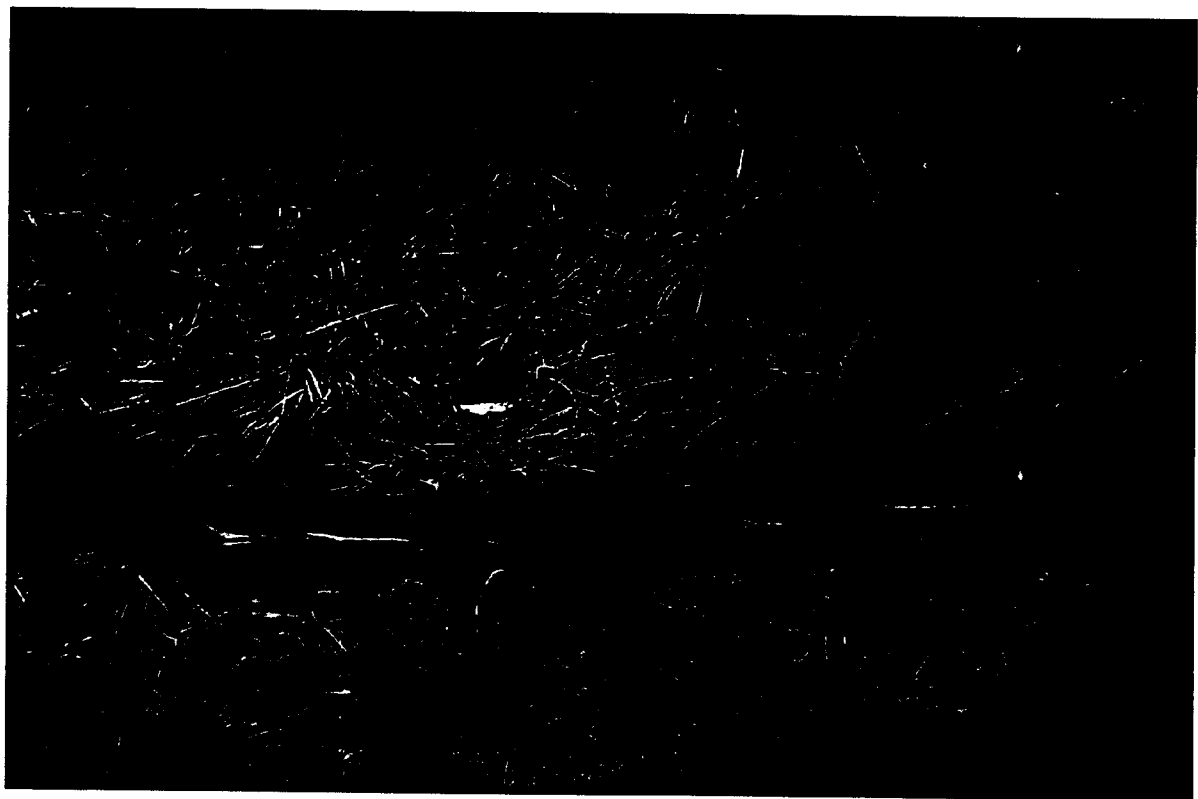


**Rehab Creek - View Upstream**

**Rehab Creek Choked by Grasses**







## **Project #2**

### **Beach Cleanup and Forage Fish Spawning Habitat Enhancement**

**1) Location:**

The proposed project would occur on the beaches of Naval Magazine (NAVMAG) Indian Island. Naval Magazine, Indian Island is located on Indian Island, near Port Hadlock, WA adjacent to Port Townsend Bay and Kilisut Harbor, Jefferson County. The Navy facility encompasses the entire island and is used as an off-load point for Navy ordnance. The specific sites to be included in the project include: Scow Bay, Crane Point, Bishop Spit, Griffin Street Beach Access, and Walan Point

**2) Brief Description of Project:**

Manmade debris frequently washes ashore and embeds in the beaches and banks of the island, creating safety hazards to visitors, pollution problems and contamination. The crew from the USS Lincoln will perform intertidal beach habitat enhancement by manually removing large pieces of metal and wooden debris from the saltmarsh wetlands, forage fish spawning beaches, etc. The debris will be dug up and transported via flatbed trucks for disposal into dumpsters located on-station. Approximately 6 - 10 acres of critical intertidal shoreline habitat would be enhanced/restored as a result of this project.

**3) Describe briefly how this project will benefit resources potentially effected by oil spills:**

The benefits to resources potentially affected by waterborne fuel spills include:

- A. Exposing additional intertidal substrate and restoring normal drift cell transport in areas with documented critical forage fish (i.e. surf smelt, herring, sandlance) spawning activity.
- B. Removing debris along the nearshore out-migration corridor will reduce the number of ambush points during highwater periods, which contribute to the predation of, listed species (i.e. juvenile Hood Canal chum and Puget Sound chinook) along the western shores of Indian Island.
- C. Eliminating debris from the saltmarsh wetland will restore normal tidal inflow and outflow conditions through channels connecting the marine waters of Port Townsend Bay to the Walan Point waterfowl and shorebird refuge located on the northwest corner of the island.

**4) Define the goals and measurable objectives of this project. How will success be measured?**

The goal is to restore the beaches and shoreline to their natural, unobstructed condition. Removal of manmade debris will allow normal tidal flow and soil drift, creating critical shoreline habitat for enhanced species reproduction and foraging.

**5) What is the estimated duration of the project?**

The project will take place in early June and take approximately 1-2 days with a crew of 15 to 20.

**7) What is the estimated cost of this project?**

Costs include labor, transportation, logistics, administration and equipment. Exact costs have not been calculated.

**7) For projects involving habitat restoration/acquisition:**

- a. What is the approximate acreage of the area to be restored?  
Approximately 6 to 10 acres of critical intertidal shoreline habitat
- b. What is the current ownership of the are to be restored?  
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